

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

-----125442 221445Z /43

R 221130Z DEC 77 ZFF RUEHOT RUEHOTB RUEHMT

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6670

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 12280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, CA, SG

SUBJECT: FRANCOPHONE MEETING IN ABIDJAN

REF: QUEBEC 470

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH CANADIAN CHARGE TO DISCUSS RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONFERENCE OF THE AGENCE DE COOPERATION CULTURELLE ET TECHNIQUE. ACCORDING TO CHARGE, QUEBEC WAS AGAIN GIVEN THE SPECIAL STATUS OF "PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT" ALONG SIDE CANADIAN DELEGATION. CHARGE ADDED THAT QUEBEC'S REPRESENTATIVE, CLAUDE MORIN, ATTEMPTED AT THE CONFERENCE TO ADD A POLITICAL DIMENSION TO QUEBEC'S STATUS THROUGH THE SUBSTANCE AND STYLE OF HIS INTERVENTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, MORIN ALLEGEDLY INSISTED THAT QUEBEC "SHOULD HAVE COMPLETELY EQUAL STATUS WITH CANADA" AT THE PROJECTED FRANCOPHONE CONFERENCE. IN CHARGE'S ASSESSMENT,, THE ADDITION OF NEW BRUNSWICK AS A PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT HELPED TO DILUTE FROM QUEBEC'S SPECIAL STATUS.

2. AT THE CONFERENCE, SENEGAL, LEBANON AND TUNISIA PROPOSED TO PLACE THE AGENCE UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF A CHIEF OF STATE IN ORDER  
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TO ADD STATURE AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY TO THE HEAD OF THE AGENCE. FRANCE AND QUEBEC STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL; CANADA AND SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES OPPOSED IT. IN THE END, THE PROPOSAL FAILED TO ATTAIN THE NECESSARY 19 VOTES: 12 VOTED FOR; 10 VOTED AGAINST; 3 ABSTAINED. FINALLY, CHARGE STATED THE NEXT CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN BEIRUT.

3. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT CHARGE SAID THAT CANADIAN AMBASSADOR  
DID ACCOMPANY MORIN ON HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY.  
HE DESCRIBED IVORIAN BEHAVIOR THROUGHOUT AS DISCRETE AND TACTFUL.  
STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009